

I am providing this testimony in support of H.B. No. 5080. I am a Certified Wildlife Biologist with over 40 years of professional experience in Natural Resources Management. On many occasions I have witnessed the destruction of habitats by over-abundant white-tailed deer populations. Deer are biological "steam-rollers" that can devastate ecosystems through extensive over-browsing. The impacts of over-abundant deer populations to vegetation and to ground and shrub nesting song birds are well documented in the scientific literature.

Recreational hunting has been shown to decrease the rate of growth and to reduce deer populations. It is the most effective and least expensive method of deer population control. Passage of this legislation will provide another tool for wildlife scientists to manage deer numbers and to protect habitat diversity and ecosystem integrity.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Greg Chasko
Certified Wildlife Biologist